

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 276.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1882.

FIVE DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.

For Sale.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

ARE now showing a Large and Varied Assortment of

T O Y S.

Comprising:

ENGLISH AND FRENCH DOLLS.

NOVELTIES IN MECHANICAL TOYS.

NEW BRICKS AND PUZZLES.

AUTOMATIC CHARIOTS AND WAGONS.

KICKING AND SPRING HORSES.

CUBES AND MOSAIC BUILDING SETS.

DRUMS, CYMBALS, AND OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

CHILDREN'S TEA AND TETE A TETE SETS.

PERCUSSION GUNS AND RIFLES.

SWORDS, AND HAPPY FAMILIES.

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS IN VARIETY.

&c., &c., &c.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 10th November, 1882. [296]

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

M. R. J. M. GUEDES has received instructions from the MORTGAGEE to Sell by Public Auction, on

FRIDAY,

the 13th December, 1882, at 2:30 o'clock P.M., at the Premises,

A VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY

Situate in Wing Lok Street and Bonham Strand,

Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

Comprising:

ALL THAT Piece or PARCEL of GROUND Registered in the Land Office as MARINE LOT No. 158, containing in the whole 1,400 square feet or thereabouts, together with the Two Substantial and well built TENEMENTS and SHOPS thereon, known as No. 101, Wing Lok Street, and No. 113, Bonham Strand, as the said Premises are held for the residue of a term of 98 years subject to the payment of the rent and the performance of the Covenants in the Crown Lease of the said Premises reserved and contained.

The Property is Sold subject to the existing Lettings thereof respectively.

For Further Particulars and Conditions of Sale, apply to

BREKETON, WOTTON, & DEACON,

Solicitors for the Mortgagor,

35, Queen's Road,

Hongkong, or to

J. M. GUEDES,

Auctioneer,

Hongkong.

Hongkong, 6th December, 1882. [793]

Notices.

THE Undersigned have been appointed AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD of UNDERWRITERS.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1881.

RECORD of AMERICAN and FOREIGN SHIPPING.

Agents,

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [457]

NOTICE.

THE MAN on INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.)

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN

Secretary,

HEAD OFFICE,

No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [81]

YANG TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000.00

PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 230,000.00

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 290,553.95

TOTAL CAPITAL and ACCUMULATIONS, 8th May, 1882.....Tls. 940,553.95

May, 1882.....\$1,000,000.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned has received instructions

1. To Sell by Public Auction, under Bill of Sale,

TO-MORROW,

the 14th day of December, 1882, at 11 A.M., at his Office, No. 39, Wellington Street, Hongkong,

THE GOODWILL, PLANT, MACHINERY,

STOCK-IN-TRADE AND FIXTURES

OF THE FIRM OF

MESSRS. DE SOUZA & CO., PRINTERS,

&c., of HONGKONG.

J. M. GUEDES,

Auctioneer,

Hongkong, 7th December, 1882. [802]

NOTICE.

WITH reference to the above Advertisement

of Sale I have THIS DAY placed

Mr. S. A. MARCAL, in charge of the said

Business which will be carried on until further notice.

J. M. GUEDES,

Attorney for

P. N. DA SILVA, of MACAO.

Hongkong, 7th December, 1882. [803]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions

1. To Sell by Public Auction, on

SATURDAY,

the 16th December, 1882, at TWO P.M., at the

UNION CLUB (Kan Hing Fong) Aberdeen Street.

THE WHOLE OF THE

FURNITURE AND FIXTURES

OF THE ABOVE CLUB.

Also,

A PHELAN'S BILLIARD TABLE Complete.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash on delivery.

J. M. GUEDES,

Auctioneer,

Hongkong, 11th December, 1882. [809]

NOTICE.

ALL POLICIES granted on MARINE RISKS to all

Parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12 per cent for Interest

on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the

UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually dis-

tributed among all Contributors of Business (whether Shareholder or not) in proportion to the

premia paid by them.

RUSSELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 13th May, 1882. [53]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, EQUAL \$833,333.33.

RESERVE FUND.....\$70,854.27.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq., LEE YAT LAU, Esq.

LO YEEK MOON, Esq., CHU CHIK NUNG, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at

CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE 8 & 9, PRAVA WEST.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1882. [601]

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

M. MAX CARL JOHANN GROTE has

been Authorized to Sign Our Firm in

Hongkong and China from this date.

MELCHERS & CO.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1882. [772]

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

DURING my temporary absence from the

Colony Mr. V. V. H. HANSEN will be

in charge of this Company's Office.

C. A. SCHULZ,

Hongkong, 9th December, 1882. [805]

Intimations.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

A NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED, will be held at the

Society's Head Office, Hongkong, on WEDNES-

DAY, the 20th day of December, 1882, at FOUR

of the o'clock, in the AFTERNOON, when the

Subjoined Resolution will be proposed.

RESOLUTION.

That each of the Existing \$5,000 Shares of the

Society be divided into Four Shares of

\$1,250, upon each of which the sum of \$125

shall be credited as paid up.

By Order of the Board,

Douglas Jones,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st December, 1882. [805]

Dated the 6th day of December, 1882. [805]

Hongkong, 6th December, 1882. [805]

Entertainments.

CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR CARDS.

SEASON 1882-3.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
INSPECTION is invited of our Collection of
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS
which have been carefully Selected in London
from the Stocks of various makers.

THEY INCLUDE CHROMO LITHOGRAPHS
FROM

MARCUS WARD AND DE LA RUE,
HAND PAINTINGS
ON

CARD, IVORY, OAK AND IVORINE
AND
OTHER NOVELTIES.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
CHEMISTS, PERFUMERS, &c.
HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG. [431]

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, *Hongkong Telegraph*," and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.

Whilst the columns of the *Hongkong Telegraph* will always be open for the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in that day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK, so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish *The Hongkong Telegraph* daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before Five O'Clock will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

DEATH.

At his residence, No. 2, Ladder Terrace, on the 11th instant, at 4:45 p.m., Mr. PETER SMITH. The funeral will take place at 2:30 p.m. to-morrow, Wednesday. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1882.

WRITING on the subject of "China as a Market," the San Francisco *Morning Call* of the 7th ult. has the following pertinent remarks:—An itinerant instructor, who has on previous occasions given the people of San Francisco the benefit of his advice, now informs our public that the Chinese restriction law was being interpreted too closely. Whether he had especial reference to the French decision, which lets in all the Chinese who can bring some kind of evidence that they were in this country when the treaty was signed, or the Field decision, which permits merchants to come on their own statement of their calling, or that other Field decision which admits all who hold a through ticket from points within the United States, does not appear from the report of his lecture. We, of course, recognize the right of this person to distribute his notions where he thinks they will do the most good, but claim the right to examine the arguments on which his conclusions are reached. We are told in the first place, that San Francisco is destined to be a great centre because it faces more millions of people than New York. The part of the statement which refers to the millions of people is true. But if San Francisco is ever a great centre its greatness will not come in any considerable degree from the millions of people in Asia. The trade at present between China and the United States is largely in favor of China. By this we mean that China sells us more goods than she buys of us. This difference, of course, is settled with coin. There is no prospect of improvement in this respect. The conditions are all against the United States. Labor is so much cheaper in China than in this country that the Chinese will always undersell us in any variety of manufactured goods which they can produce at all. At present we are selling China some machinery, and are educating her people to its use. For some years to come they will buy Yankee notions, and the machinery by which these notions are turned out. But in time they will manufacture for themselves and so cheaply that they will not only supply their own market, but ours as well. A people who are so poorly paid as the Chinese cannot be liberal customers of a people so liberally paid as those of the United States. Any

thing they can produce at all they can produce cheaper than we can. If the labor market of China were on a level with that of the United States, or even with that of Europe, their trade would be valuable. But ten cents a day, even with living in proportion, does not enable a man to purchase many luxuries. There is, of course, a class, or classes, in China whose expenditures are liberal. The rich there are said to be very rich. But this class have their own cheaper markets to draw on for supplies. They will come here only for such things as their manufacturers do not produce, and the comparatively small number of the rich class will limit its requirements. It should be borne in mind that while China is an old country it is new to the more progressive civilization of the West. It has the largest and cheapest working force in the world, but it is as yet untrained to our methods. We can sell to them only while their people are learning to make the things we have introduced into their country. They pay liberally for teachers and for models of machinery, and in a very short time will sell to us at lower rates than we can afford the goods we are now selling them. The Chinese will probably never invent, but they have initiative powers of a high order, and soon learn to do what they see others do about as well as others. Some of the statesmen of Europe have already selected China as the future workshop of the world. It has eight laborers for England's one, and an industrial system that enables the immense force to be easily utilized. The wants of the people are so few that wages will seem liberal there that would not be accepted in Europe or America. The idea of the United States contending for the markets of this cheap country is absurd. We could only do so by reducing our standard of wages to a close approximation with theirs. In doing this our home market would be crippled in a degree corresponding to the reduction in wages. No people can buy more than they can pay for. China is worth little to us as a consumer of our products, because the low standard of wages in that country prevents them from being consumers of anything but the bare necessities of life. The policy of the pro-Chinese people in this country tends to equalize conditions in the two countries. The right of free immigration accorded to the Chinese, they would soon break rates to the Chinese standard. Possibly this is what the Beechers and Cooks are working to bring about.

TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, December 11th.
EXPECTED CHANGES IN THE BRITISH
CABINET.

The Earl of Derby is expected to enter the Cabinet immediately, and further changes will follow.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

WE note that Dr. Wordsworth, Bishop of St. Andrews, has prepared an edition of historical plays of Shakespeare.

AN Emergency Lodge of Zetland, No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, to-night, at 8:30 for 9 o'clock precisely.

BRO. E. B. JOREY is J. W. of Victoria Lodge, No. 1026, for the ensuing year, and not Bro. T. G. Williamson, as erroneously stated in yesterday's issue.

As the German man-of-war *Elisabeth* arrived in Amoy on the 7th inst., we presume the trouble with the Chinese authorities in Swatow has been amicably adjusted.

THE Amoy *Gazette* understands that the owners of the steamer *Hai Long* have sent a gold watch to H. B. M.'s Consul at Foochow for presentation to Captain Le Buah, of H. I. C. M. Navy, in recognition of his services to the said steamer when stranded at Quemoy Spit on the 3rd April, 1881.

A CURIOUS phenomenon, probably connected with the subterranean disturbance on Saturday night, though the earthquake was not felt until nearly an hour later, was the fact of the Town Clock not striking nine until a quarter after that hour. Possibly the comet has been playing a trick with the colonial tickler.

A CASE in which a chair coolie was charged, with two others not in custody, with robbing a washerman and a cook of \$100 each on the 9th instant, was discharged this morning by Captain Thossett, the complainants not having put in an appearance, nor did they when the case first came on yesterday. They ought to be searched out and made to explain matters.

THE death of the Bey of Tunis is said to have raised a question to which the Sultan's Government appears to attach great importance. In accordance with ancient custom, on the demise of the Bey his legitimate successor should apply to the Porte for a Firman confirming his nomination—a formality which was duly complied with by the late Bey on his accession to the Throne. Owing, probably, to the altered condition of affairs brought about by the French occupation of Tunis, the present Bey considers he can dispense with the Porte's approbation. This has given much offence to the Turkish Government, who are particularly anxious not to forego the prerogative; if only to show that Turkey does not recognize the position France has taken up in that province.

FOUR invalids of the Buffs and one of the Royal Artillery proceed to England this afternoon by the mail. Captain Bury, Brigade Major, goes home by her on six months' leave of absence; Captain Newham-Davis of the Buffs acting as his locum tenens.

FOUR Russian men-of-war arrived in harbour this afternoon, from Nagasaki—the ironclad *Duke of Edinburgh*, 18 guns, the cruiser *Africa*, 8 guns, and the sloops *Vestnik* and *Plastun*, 8 guns each. The *Duke of Edinburgh* exchanged the usual salutes.

THE longest poem ever written is said to be the "Shah Nameh," of Ferdousi—an epic narrating the mythical history of Persia. Miss Helen Zimmern, a London writer, has translated a collection of tales from the poem, and will soon publish it under the title of the "Epic of Kings."

THE case in which two Chinamen and two Chinawomen are charged with decoying nine Annamite girls into the Colony for an unlawful purpose, was remanded this morning by Captain Thossett till the 19th instant, for the arrival of the *Mess*, by which steamer the girls were brought to Hongkong from Hainan, where the vessel put in through stress of weather.

FREDERICK ARCHIBALD BROWN, master of the British barque *Dilly Simpson*, was charged at the Police Court this morning before Captain Thossett, with an offence "not to be named among Christians," as says the warrant of arrest. The offence is alleged to have been committed on board the barque on the high seas on the 23rd October, the complainant being a seaman named Dick Warrelmann. Mr. Wotton, who appeared for the defence, applied for a remand, as he had only just instructed. The case was remanded until the 14th instant at 2 p.m., the defendant being allowed bail in two strecties of \$250 each.

SEEING some fifty Celestials engaged yesterday evening in a free fight in Square Street, Police Constable Mitt Singh proceeded to make a haul. Fixing his stern gaze on a boiler-maker and a carpenter, the Punjubee endeavored to effect their arrest, when the boiler-maker struck him on the shoulder with an iron bar. Equal to the occasion, Mitt blew his shrill whistle, a lukong thereupon promptly coming to his aid. With praiseworthy zeal, the Celestial constable went for the carpenter, who struck him on the head with an iron bar, both prisoners being, however, finally lugged off to the station. For thus assaulting peace-preservers, Captain Thossett, who always upholds the guardians of law and order, sent the defendants to a month's hard labour each.

THE political situation in Spain has assumed a more serious aspect. The new Opposition, led by Marshal Serrano, nothing daunted by the report that Señor Sagasta and his colleagues would resist any attempt to re-establish the Revolutionary Constitution of 1869, have agreed that the eminent jurisconsult, Señor Mottoz Rios, should draw up a programme, which was submitted to and approved by the leaders of the Radicals and Democrats. Then Marshal Serrano received in succession, at his own house, many Independent Democrats, and many Senators of the Ministerial camp, who like Señores Balaguer, Sinares, Navarro, and Rodrigo, and Generals Acerbon, Berenguer, Lopez, and Dominguez, had exhibited discontent at the slow pace of the reforms announced by the Sagasta Cabinet.

THE Clerk of Councils, has received the Commands of His Excellency The Officer Administering the Government to summon a Meeting of the Legislative Council for to-morrow, at 2:30 p.m. After the business on the Agenda has been disposed of, the Council will meet in Finance Committee for the dispatch of Financial business.

AGENDA.

Second reading of the following Bills:—
(a) The Bill entitled The Volunteers Ordinance, 1882.
(b) The Bill entitled Banker's Books Evidence Ordinance, 1882.
(c) The Bill to amend The Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance (8 of 1870).
(d) The Bill to consolidate and amend the law for Distresses for Rent.
(e) The Bill to amend The Supreme Court Ordinance (12 of 1873).
(f) The Bill to amend The Criminal Procedure Ordinance (3 of 1865).
(g) The Bill to amend the law relating to Jurors.
(h) The Bill to provide for the Vacancy of Offices and the determination of Pensions and Allowances held by persons convicted of Crime.

(i) The Bill entitled The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Amendment Ordinance, 1882.

(j) The Bill entitled The Chairs and Vehicles Ordinance, 1882.

(k) The Bill entitled The Tramways Ordinance, 1882.

M. DE BRAZZA and Mr. Stanley are, according to a writer in the *Overland Mail*, still at it with pen and tongue. The great traveller has evidently no intention that an interloper shall reap unopposed the rich fruit due to his indomitable perseverance, while the French "Conqueror" is quite as determined to annex—we had almost used a harder word—to the French Crown the northern bank of Stanley Pool. Candidly our sympathies and those of most honest persons, we expect, are with Mr. Gordon Bennett's *protection*. What has M. de Brazza done? Practically naught, save follow in the footsteps of another, and made to explain matters.

THE death of the Bey of Tunis is said to have raised a question to which the Sultan's Government appears to attach great importance. In accordance with ancient custom, on the demise of the Bey his legitimate successor should apply to the Porte for a Firman confirming his nomination—a formality which was duly complied with by the late Bey on his accession to the Throne. Owing, probably, to the altered condition of affairs brought about by the French occupation of Tunis, the present Bey considers he can dispense with the Porte's approbation. This has given much offence to the Turkish Government, who are particularly anxious not to forego the prerogative; if only to show that Turkey does not recognize the position France has taken up in that province.

WE are informed by the Acting Agent of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, that the French mail steamer *Djemaa*, with the incoming mail, left Singapore on Sunday evening last.

AFTER dragging its weary length along for nearly a month, the boy of Quarter Master, Sergeant Inkpen, Royal Engineers, suspected of breaking open his master's desk and stealing therefrom property of the value of \$65, was finally disposed of this morning by Mr. Wodehouse, by the discharge of the prisoner, against whom nothing could be proven. No trace of the stolen property has been discovered.

THE Royal Artillery commenced their annual practice yesterday at North Point, from four-seven-pounder mountain guns. A target fixed at about 1,000 yards to seaward, was the object aimed at, shrapnel shell and case shot being the missiles used. The practice will be continued at North Point to-morrow, and Thursday, and later on will be carried out at Stone Cutters' Island, for which preparations are in progress.

A PHILADELPHIA jury was called upon to decide, in a customs case, whether a jewsharp is a toy or a musical instrument. The question put to the expert witnesses was, "Is the jewsharp capable of producing a succession of harmonious sounds?" One witness played to the jury "The Heart Blew Down," and "The Skids are Out To-day," and the reporter says that the jury seemed restless and depressed. Their verdict was that the jewsharp is a musical instrument.

RECENT years have seen the rise and progress and even the death of remarkable varieties of art criticism. The latest departure of this kind, observes a home paper, has just appeared in the columns of an austere contemporary. The fine art gossipier of that journal, speaking of a new portrait of the Duchess of Cleveland, says "it might be taken for a Van Eyck if it had not something of Antonio More, and most of a Tadema." If there is any convenience in this style of criticism, let us apply it all round. Why not say of a novel that it might be taken for a Dickens, if it had not something of Scott and most of a George Eliot? Or of a politician—that he might be taken for a Beaconsfield, if he had not something of Mr. Bright and most of a Mr. Gladstone? Or of a vehicle—that it might be taken for a railway carriage, if it had not something of a four-wheeler and most of a bath-chair? Why not? It would be quite as grammatical, quite as reasonable.

"WHERE is the old steward?" inquired a traveler as he stepped aboard an outgoing steamer just previous to her departure. "Oh, he was discharged some time ago," replied the captain. "Why, he seemed to be a first-class fellow," rejoined the first speaker: "why was he kicked out?" "Well, to tell you the truth, he got too big for his breeches, and we bounced him," emphatically ejaculated the captain. This conversation occurred within the hearing of a bright-eyed, intelligent little girl, the daughter of one of the tourists on the steamer. Subsequently another passenger arrived, and after bestowing a casual glance around said; "I don't see the old steward; what has become of him?" "I think he was discharged," volunteered a bystander. "Do you know what for?" "No, sir." "I do," piped a small voice from the cabin door. Looking around, the inquirer saw the smiling face of a little girl peeping out at him: "Well, my dear," said he, "why was the steward discharged?" "Oh, I don't like to tell," she bashfully replied. "Come, tell me, that's a good girl. What did they discharge him for?" "Cause," she slowly answered, "cause his pants were too short!"

ANOTHER old resident has crossed the bourne whence there is no returning. At a quarter to five yesterday evening Peter Smith, proprietor of the seamen's boarding house which bears his name, passed to his last account, leaving a widow and eight children to mourn their loss. A comparatively young man, being only 47 years old, Peter Smith had spent 22 years in the Colony, and as connected with the American Consulate in Mr. Consul Baily's time, was well known in Hongkong. A trip of a little over two months in Japan, from which he had returned but a week at the time of his death, failed to arrest the ravages of the disease which had fastened upon him, the "Great Reaper," from which frail humanity shrinks with instinctive loathing; having marked him for its own. Thus as time advances with solemn tread, old residents one by one go to join the great majority, those they leave behind little recking that they too must inevitably follow, so true it is that all of us think every body mortal except ourselves. Cirrhosis of the liver and acute congestion of the lungs were the diseases which carried Peter Smith off. The funeral will take place at 2:30 p.m. to-morrow, from No. 2, Ladder Terrace. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

TOM MOORE married a young actress, much to the disappointment of his parents, who expected that so brilliant a man would certainly marry a fortune. Bessy Dyke, the poet's bride, on the other hand, was not only poor, but she never won even a name in her profession. She was a charming creature, however, and the poet had learned by experience that "There's nothing half so sweet in life as love's young dream." Bessie and he lived in great harmony, and Moore makes frequent mention of her in his letters, always speaking of her in the tenderest manner. She, however, went into society, and feeling sensitively the difference between the rank her husband's talents claimed and her own lower caste, she passed her whole life in retirement. Moore speaks in one of his letters to his mother of "Bessie's democratic pride." She would not be "patronized," and fell back on the dignity of her own character. Moore was a general favorite in the highest circles, and as his wife wished him to enjoy the best social advantages, he mingled among a class into which she never entered. She ministered faithfully to his declining years, and eventually received that honor as the widow of Thomas Moore which had been withheld when she was his wife.

There's nothing half so sweet in life as love's young dream.

According to an American contemporary there is a sort of vague impression abroad that Great Britain's public debt is always increasing. This is a mistake. She is, as a matter of fact, gradually reducing it, it being at present about one-tenth less than it was twenty-five years ago, notwithstanding that she has been during that time engaged in several costly wars. The rate of reduction is slow, but it is nevertheless sure. During the last twenty-five years the combined indebtedness of the other nations of Europe has increased, two-fold. Spain, Italy and Russia have done the worst, the increase in Russia's obligations being something like 250 per cent. The European debts, in round numbers, are estimated to amount to about \$1,500,000,000,000.

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AMONGST the passengers who left for San Fran-

cisco by the Occidental and Oriental Company's steamer *Arabie* this afternoon was Lieut. Col. H. Spencer Palmer, Royal Engineers, who goes home on promotion. Col. Palmer's high scientific attainments and distinguished literary abilities have made him a prominent figure in this country for years past. As a contributor to the leading scientific periodicals in London Lieut. Col. Palmer has gained quite a celebrity, and can, fairly lay claim to a foremost place amongst modern savants. He will be best remembered in Hongkong by several admirably written articles on astronomical matters, his excellent report on the proposed Hongkong Observatory, and a capital essay on "Typhoons of the Eastern Seas," a review of M. Dechevren's celebrated work, and specially written for this journal. With the departure of Lieut. Col. Palmer, Hongkong has lost one of its brightest ornaments.

AN Emergency Lodge of St. John, No. 618, S.C., specially convened for the installation of the R.W.M. for the ensuing year, was held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, last night. There was, as usual, a very large attendance, close upon one hundred brethren being present. The ceremony of installation was performed by V. Wor. Bro. Catchick Paul Chater, District Grand Master of Hongkong and South China, E.C., who was accompanied by his Deputy, V. Wor. Bro. W. Stanley Adams, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge. After the ceremony the newly installed Master, R. W. Bro. Robert Fraser-Smith, invested the following officers of the Lodge for the ensuing year:—

I. P. M. Wor. Bro. JAMES CHRISTIE.
Wor. S. W. Bro. J. W

Commercial.

THIS DAY.

As usual on mail mornings, business in the Share Market has been at a standstill, not a single transaction having come under our notice. China Sugar shares are rather weaker, and are offered at 194 per share. Nothing has yet been done in this scrip, although we think the reduced rate may lead to business later on. Other stocks remain as per annexed list.

4 o'clock p.m.

There is still nothing of special interest to report in share business. Banks show a further decline, the cash quotation standing at 166 per cent. premium, with sellers at the rate. On time, we hear of business having been put through to-day at 167 for the end of the month. Hongkong Fires also display signs of weakness at 1,120. A few Docks have changed hands at 54 per cent. premium, without, however, in any way affecting the market status of the stock. Luzons are in somewhat better demand, and we hear of cash sales at 116. Other stocks need not be specially referred to.

SHARES.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—166 per cent. premium, sellers.

Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,800 per share, buyers.

China Traders' Insurance Company—\$1,550 per share, sellers.

North China Insurance—Tls. 1,225 per share.

Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$145 per share, sellers.

Yangtze Insurance Association—Tls. 850 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company—\$230 per share.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$1,120 per share, sellers.

China Fire Insurance Company—\$3,232 per share, sellers.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—54 per cent. premium, sales.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31 per share, premium, sellers.

Hongkong Gas Company—\$80 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company—\$115 per share, buyers.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—1 per cent. premium, sellers.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$194 per share, sellers.

China Sugar Refining Company (Debentures)—3 per cent. premium.

Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$16 per share, sales.

Hongkong Ice Company—\$165 per share, buyers.

Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$60 per share.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1878—14 percent, prem. ex. int.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1881—24 percent, prem. ex. int.

EXCHANGE.

On LONDON—Bank, T. T. 3/7

Bank-Bills, on demand 3/7

Bank-Bills, at 30 days' sight 3/7

Credits, at 4 months' sight 3/8

Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/8

On PARIS—

Bank-Bills, on demand 4/4

Credits, at 4 months' sight 4/4

On HONOLU—Bank, T. T. 223

On CALCUTTA—Bank, T. T. 223

On SHANGHAI—

Bank, sight 7/4

Private, 30 days' sight 7/4

OPIUM MARKET.—THIS DAY.

NEW MALWA per picul, \$580

(Allowance, Taels 184.)

OLD MALWA per picul, \$560

(Allowance, Taels 184.)

NEW PATNA (first choice) per chest 8542

NEW PATNA (second) per chest 8537

NEW PATNA (without choice) per chest 8540

NEW PATNA (bottom) 8545

NEW BIRMAH (without choice) per chest 8510

NEW PERSIAN per chest, \$380

(Allowance, Taels 8.)

OLD PERSIAN per picul, \$335

(Allowance, Taels 64.)

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Messrs. FALCONER & Co's REGISTER, YESTERDAY.)

Barometer—1 P.M. 30.07

Barometer—4 P.M. 30.02

Thermometer—1 P.M. 74

Thermometer—4 P.M. 74

Thermometer—4 P.M. (Wet bulb) 63

Barometer—9 A.M. 30.14

Thermometer—9 A.M. 74

Thermometer—9 A.M. 74

Thermometer—9 A.M. 65

Thermometer—9 A.M. 65

Wet Thermometer—9 A.M. 60

Wet Thermometer—9 A.M. 60</